

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL.

BY ROBERT M'KNIGHT,

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News from Florida.

From the Georgia Constitutionalist.

FROM PICOLATA.

By the steam packet FLORIDA, arrived at Savannah, we received from a friend in Florida, the Jacksonville Courier of the 28th ult. We are also indebted to several of our friends in this city for the following letters received by the Florida, from volunteers from this city. In our next we will give the letter of the correspondent of the Savannah Georgian.

"PICOLATA, January 31.

The boat is about to start and I write in haste to inform you, that we arrived here yesterday all in fine spirits. There is but one house, which is garrisoned by 50 Savannah Volunteers, and enclosed by a strong double log fence twenty feet high—in each corner is placed two six pounders—116 Riflemen and 40 Regulars from Savannah and 60 Horsemen from St. Mary's, have just arrived. 150 Horsemen for Fort King left here on Friday with provisions for that place—they all expect to be cut to pieces before they reach that post. An express who left here last night for Fort King is supposed to have been killed on reaching the other side of the river. We shall march in a few days to attack some Indians six miles from this place, who have in their possession the Military stores taken from the Regulars, which we shall attempt to reach Fort King, 80 miles distant. All are determined to fight their way through. An Indian was seen this morning about 40 rods from our Camp, and twelve men have gone in pursuit of him.

P. S. Mr. Forrest, printer, from the Constitutionalist office, has just been shot through the foot, and one other was slightly wounded (accidentally.) Thirty volunteers have this moment arrived in Camp from Savannah.

"PICOLATA, January 30, 1836.

"We arrived here this morning about break of day, and I will write you a few lines to inform you of our safe arrival. All are in tolerably good health, and, I believe, in good spirits also. It is thought that we shall take up the line of march in a day or two for Camp King. Nothing has occurred in Florida, since we left Augusta, that has come to my knowledge, that is at all worthy of mentioning. We left St. Mary's early on Friday morning, reached Jacksonville same day at 4 P. M., where we were saluted by the citizens, and also by the Revenue Cutter Jefferson. She is now lying in front of that town, waiting for orders from Gen. Clinch. I learn that she has paid a visit to Picolata, but met with no Indians. The schooner George & Mary, arrived at Jacksonville on Wednesday, laden with a vast quantity of provisions, sent on by Gen. Hamilton, chairman of a committee of the patriotic citizens of Charleston, for the relief of the people Florida. Meetings have been held in several places and resolutions passed, expressive of their gratitude for the kindness of the people of Charleston, Savannah and Augusta.

"I have nothing new to tell you of, and nothing but the knowledge of your anxiety to hear of our safe arrival, induces me to write you at this time—and it will probably be the only opportunity for a week to come."

"PICOLATA, January 29, 1836.

We arrived this morning at this Fort, and although it is not an extra strong place for European warfare, yet they say it is good against the Indians. We find on our arrival that Gen. Clinch is still at Fort King, a reinforcement having reached him, and also fresh volunteers arriving from several quarters. We shall remain at this place for several days at least, to prepare ourselves for a march to Gen. Clinch; and also to wait for other expected troops. We hope soon to have such a respectable force as will drive the Indians from this quarter. We suppose there to be from three to four miles from us, that is a small number, acting as scouts. Our Young Men bear their privations remarkably well considering they have been used, to good living and comfortable quarters. Their spirits are good, and I think the corps is composed of men that will fight should occasion require.

Our Captain is in fine spirits, and full of confidence. Our officers the same."

Gallant Affair—On the 12th inst. Col. Parish at the head of two hundred Volunteers from this district, composed of the Companies of Captains, Allison, Bellamy, and Caswell, had a sharp encounter with a large body of Indians.—The attack commenced with the advanced guard under Capt. Bellamy, who had been allowed by the enemy to pass their main body. Col. Parish immediately hastened forward to his support, when suddenly he was attacked on both flanks by the enemy placed in ambush.—The Volunteers made an unsuccessful attempt to charge on horseback.—They were the dismounted and formed in admirable order. They then charged upon the enemy in a manner worthy of veterans. In the mean time, Capt. Bellamy having routed the attacking party opposed to him, fell back upon the main body. The enemy was soon forced to take shelter in a thicket. By this time night was coming on, it was not thought prudent to follow them, where the localities of the place and the darkness would have given them great advantages. Our men rested off their arms in the open pine woods, prepared to renew the action at daylight; but during the night, the savages effected a retreat. Their loss must have been considerable, as six dead bodies were counted in one part of the field of battle. Two days after, Col. Parish marched for Fort King, and arrived in safety. He then proceeded to Powell's town and destroyed it. The Volunteers then returned to Fort Drane, where they are now encamped.

From the Charleston Mercury.

From St. Augustine.—The Steamer *Etewan*, Capt. Sarsard, arrived at this port yesterday, from St. Augustine. We had, however, previously received the following letter from our correspondent at that place, via Savannah, where the *Etewan*, had put in.

"St. Augustine, February 2.

"A company of mounted men came in to-day from Picolata, bringing despatches from that place, and also from Gen. Clinch. We learn that according to the best opinions, the main body of Indians are concentrating their forces at Powell-town in the west; that *Micanopy*, a chief, has joined *Powell*, with 500 men, that they number at least 2500 warriors, and that they are making great preparations for an early and decisive battle with Clinch.—Their object is to engage him to advantage with an overpowering force before he can receive reinforcements.

"The ladies of St. Augustine have passed a series of complimentary resolutions in honor of the volunteers, and have organized themselves into a society to render any service that may be required. They are emulous in their hospitality, and the only thing that detracts from our enjoyment, is the sense that the measure of their gratitude far exceeds our poor deserts.

"The detachment, as regards health, is highly favored; only a few complain of slight colds."

Extract of a letter received in this City, dated

"St. Augustine, Feb. 2.

"Since my last, nothing has occurred here which is in the least degree worthy of communicating. Yesterday, Captain Merchant of the United States army, arrived here in command of his Company, and has superseded Capt. Porter in command of the troops now here. This has of course added to the security of the inhabitants, and I believe that the force now here has almost quieted the apprehensions of the people in this vicinity. We have occasionally some flying reports of the Indians hovering between this and Picolata, but their habitual caution keeps them off from a post so well defended as this, and if they were mad enough to make an attack, it would dispense with the force now collecting from all quarters, for most certainly we should give such a good account of these troublesome gentlemen, that no further danger would be apprehended from them. Since our arrival, we all have received the most marked politeness and attention from the inhabitants."

From the Tallahassee Floridian

The Middle district in a few days will have six hundred men under arms engaged in the Seminole war. A number fully equal to one third of the effective men in it.

Major Wellford left this place on Tuesday last with a guard to meet and protect the arms now on their way from Augusta.

We assure our friends in Columbus and Augusta, that Tallahassee has not been burnt and plundered as reported to them, and no apprehension exists of such a calamity.

Our Navy stationed in the Gulf of Mexico, has acted in the present crisis of our affairs with a promptitude worthy of all praise. The frigate *Constellation* and *Sloops-of-War Vandalia* and *St. Louis*, besides smaller vessels of war, are already at the scene of action.

Capt. Hooker on the lower Suwannee, a few days since, finding the opposite bank in possession of about 30 Indians, crossed over with nine men to attack them. As he landed, two of his men were shot down—one with nine balls the other with five. With his

remaining men, he boldly charged on the enemy.—While thus engaged, his boat got a drift, and he was left with no alternative but victory or death. After a close and deathly contest of some minutes, the savages were routed with severe loss.

Twelve friendly Indians arrived yesterday from Tampa. They will act as guides to the expedition which will march in a few days from this place. They state that the loss of the Seminoles at the battle of the *Wublo-cootiee*, was one hundred and four killed. Among whom was *Osceola* or *Powell*; who they say, received two wounds, and died two days after the action. The reported death of *Powell* is not generally credited by our citizens.

From the National Intelligencer.

We have heretofore had occasion to refer to the *New York Times*, as a journal possessing the confidence of the Government, and as having the advantage of access to sources of information not open to all, even of the friends of the Administration. Still under that impression, we read with the greatest pleasure the following note in that paper of Tuesday last, affording, as it does, in a shape as good as official, the most acceptable information:

From the *New York Times* of February 2.

The Mediation accepted.—A well informed correspondent writes as follows from Washington:

"The communication from England is a letter from the King of England to the President, offering Mediation. It has been accepted by the Administration, and a letter to the King will be written by the President, in which it will be stated that he did not design to menace nor insult France nor her King—and this will be done in language stronger even than that used in the Annual Message; but beyond that disavowal nothing."

The terms of the proffered mediation were of course such as it became this country to accept, and the intelligence is therefore most gratifying—it cannot be doubted that the intervention will be successful, and peace will be preserved.

The Government express, which reached here before the sailing of the packets yesterday, is supposed to have brought the letters of acceptance.

THE JOURNAL:

CAMDEN, FEBRUARY 13, 1836.

KERSHAW VOLUNTEERS.

The District of KERSHAW, has nobly responded to the call of her country. In pursuance of orders from the Executive of the State, and to which we alluded to last week, Col. CHESNUT's Regiment paraded in Camden on Monday last, for the purpose of furnishing one company of mounted men, by draft, if a sufficient number of Volunteers did not offer, for the Florida campaign. After the line was formed, Brigadier Gen. CANEY read the order of the Executive, to the Regiment, and made a few brief, patriotic remarks. Col. CHESNUT and Major M'WILLIE then addressed them in a most feeling and eloquent manner, explaining the nature of the service in which they would be engaged, and the savage character of the foe they would have to encounter. The Flag was then placed a few paces in front of the line, and an invitation given to those who were willing to offer their services to their country in behalf of their suffering fellow citizens of Florida, to advance and dress by the Flag. The invitation was scarcely uttered before the whole Regiment, with the exception of about twenty, we do not believe there were more, was in the line with the Flag.

To one unacquainted with the character of *Kershaw*, a scene like this might appear surprising; but when the patriot character of her sons is taken into consideration, surprise would cease. A draft for men to serve their country is unknown in Kershaw; there never has been, and we trust there never will be a time, that such a resort shall be necessary. During the last war with Great Britain, when men were wanted from this Regiment, when the call was made for volunteers, all, EVERY ONE in the line marched forth: It is soul-inspiring to live in the midst of such people, and we glory to-day, in being a citizen of Kershaw District.

After the line had been formed on the Flag by the Volunteers, Col. CHESNUT informed them that only a single company was wanted, and requested that those who, on reflection, thought they could with most convenience leave home would march to the front, and on this occasion a much larger number than was wanted, promptly responded to the call. The requisite

number was then selected by lot. The Company was immediately organized, and directed to be ready to take up the line of march on Thursday morning. At the appointed time they appeared on the ground "equipped for the war." To the patriot it was a noble sight, affording the proudest and most conclusive evidence that our country will never be wanting in the essentials for protecting her rights, her interests or her honor.

This detachment, goes charged with the honor of Kershaw, and we feel assured that in their hands it will remain untarnished, and if occasion shall offer, we have no doubt but their deeds will further attest their valor and their patriotism.

The company are all well mounted and equipped, and left this town, on Thursday last in fine spirits. They were escorted to the river by a numerous body of citizens, and were also cheered and animated, by the smiles of a large number of the softer sex.

We subjoin a list, as perfect as it was in our power to make it, of this patriotic corps. Before doing so however, we must mention one fact. Capt. B. BOYKIN, who had been elected first Lieut. was taken sick with the measles on Wednesday evening. In the morning when the troops were formed, Capt. THOMAS LANG, the father-in-law of Capt. BOYKIN, was found in the ranks to supply his place. Such prompt devotion to the call of his country, deserves honorable notice. The company unanimously and by acclamation, elected him to the first Lieutenancy.

There has occurred in the course of the mounting and equipping this gallant band, some instances of individual liberality, generosity and devotion, which deserves to be recorded in letters of gold. Our whole community however, seemed to emulate each other in their exertions to prepare the volunteers for the service in which they were about to engage. The following is a list of the officers and men, as they left Camden. If there should be any error we shall be happy to correct it.

Col. JOHN CHESNUT, Captain.
Capt. THOS. LANG, 1st Lieutenant.
Col. JOHN J. MICKLE, 2d "
LEWIS J. PATTERSON, Ensign.
JAMES S. STEWART, 1st Sergeant,
JOHN D. MURRAY, 2d "
T. L. DIXON, 3d "
BEN. GASS, 4th "
J. S. NETTLES, 1st Corporal.
D. KIRKLAND, 2d "
J. W. ARTHUR, 3d "
J. B. MICKLE, 4th "
Wm. KENNEDY, Clerk.

Jno. A. Boykin, Joseph G. Bruce Wm Baskin, John Bowen, James Baskin, Jas. M. Coker, Thos Creighton, W R Catoe, D J Childers, E W Creighton, Roderick Cameron, J B Childers, Wm Dunlap, J C Doby, R W Dunlap, Jas P Dickinson, Wm Dixon, Kinchen Exum, Isaac Gay, W Gainer, S Gunn, U Gilbert, S Gibson, M Giles, G Gerald, T M Gaskins, Nat Gay, D Graham, B Haile, Jr. B Jones, Wm Kirkland, Bryant King, Duncan Lang, Jno M' Coy, A G Marshall, O Mahaffy, J R M'Kain, — Clanton, Allen M' Caskill, Jas M' Corkle, R. Mosely, M M' Donald, Allen Moore, F Matheson, R Pettigrew, M Naudin, H Arrants, Wm Rossier, S A B Shannon, J Smyrle, J M Spears, Joseph Smith, Saml Shiver Jr, J Thompson, — Lodowick, T E Shannon, W B Watkins R L Whitaker, T Whitaker, H Whitaker, James Woods.

☞ We have to throw ourselves again on the indulgence of our patrons. We have used every exertion, and have not yet been able to procure a journeyman, and it is utterly impossible for us to proceed regularly with the publication until we can get one. We shall continue our exertions, and indulge the hope that we shall soon be successful. In the meantime, when our paper fails to come to hand, our readers will be enabled to charge it to the proper account.

Knowing the anxiety of a large number of our subscribers, to learn the progress of affairs in Florida, and being unable to publish an entire sheet this week, we have, recollecting the old adage that "half a loaf, is better than no bread," deter-

mined on issuing a half sheet, most of which is devoted to this subject. Under the proper head, the latest and most important news from that section of country will be found.

Since the foregoing was in type, we have dates from Florida, as late as the 7th instant, they bring however nothing of importance.

FRANCE.

We rejoice, as all our readers must, at the prospect of an amicable adjustment of our difficulties with France, through the offered, and accepted mediation of England. The fact that it has been accepted, has not yet been officially announced; there is no doubt however, but it has been accepted, and the happiest results may be anticipated. We having nothing very late from France. At our last dates, the annual message had not been received.

At a public meeting of the citizens of Kershaw District, held pursuant to notice at the Court House in Camden, on the afternoon of Monday the 8th instant, the Hon. JAMES CHESNUT was called to the Chair, and WILLIAM J. GRANT appointed Secretary.

The Chair stated the object of the meeting to be, to take into consideration the propriety of making such arrangements, as would facilitate the equipment and march of the detachment ordered by the Governor from this Regiment for three months service in and near Florida.

THOMAS SALMOND, Esq, after a few remarks, offered the following Preamble and Resolutions, which being seconded, was submitted by the Chair and unanimously adopted.

Whereas, the Governor of this State, having ordered from this Regiment a detachment of seventy-six officers and privates, to be mounted and equipped, and to march with the utmost expedition, to the assistance of our fellow citizens of Florida, the Regiment has promptly responded to the call, and organized a volunteer corps for said duty. And whereas, from the short notice and other causes, it may be difficult to provide the detachment with horses and equipments suitable to the service, and the expedition may be delayed:

Be it therefore Resolved, That it is at once both the duty and the pride of the citizens of the District, to meet the praiseworthy and patriotic zeal manifested by our youth, by facilitating the equipment and expediting the march of the detachment by all the means proper to the utmost despatch.

Resolved, That — be appointed a committee to obtain forthwith, by subscription, money, horses, saddles, bridles, blankets and any other articles which may be necessary and proper to equip the citizen soldier, or add to his comfort while engaged in this toilsome and perilous service; and that it be their duty to distribute the same agreeably to the recommendation of the officers commanding the detachment.

And, whereas, there may be individuals in the detachment, whose families depend, in part, on their efforts for the comforts and necessities of life:

Be it therefore Resolved, That — be a committee to collect, by subscription, supplies of provisions of every kind, and that it shall be the duty, of said Committee to distribute the same as in their opinion the wants of such families require.

The following gentlemen being nominated by individuals present, were by unanimous vote of the meeting appointed the committee under the second resolution. VIZ. Hon. JAMES CHESNUT, THOMAS SALMOND, JOSEPH CUNNINGHAM, BENJ. MINNIE, JOHN BOYKIN, Sen. and CHARLES J. SHANNON, Esquires.

And in like manner the following were appointed the committee under the third Resolution: VIZ. Messrs CHARLES J. SHANNON, ALEXANDER JOHNSON, LAWRENCE WHITAKER, JOSEPH MICKLE, ARCHIBALD M'DONALD, GEORGE STRATFORD, BENJAMIN M'COY, LEWIS PEEBLES, ALLEN M' CASKILL, LOVICK YOUNG, WYATT PATTERSON, JAMES B. CURETON, JAS. HAILE, JAMES BASKINS, Sen. WILLIAM FLETCHER and ISAAC KNOX.

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That for the purpose of providing the detachment with the funds necessary for its service on the march, and until it is mustered into the service of the United States, at Purysburg the place of rendezvous, the committee under the second Resolution, be authorized and requested to raise, by note in the Branch Bank of the State in Camden, any sum necessary for the purpose; and this meeting hereby pledge their faith for the payment of said note, should the same not be reimbursed by the State or United States.

Brigadier General CANEY being called on, and having stated that twenty-six horses and sets of equipments were wanted, it was further